

of ways in which an intelligent people surpass a stupid one, and an exemplary people an immoral one, has infinitely more to do with the well-being of a nation, than soil, or climate, or even than government itself, excepting so far as government may prove to be the patron of intelligence and virtue."

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#### TO OUR PATRONS.

**T**HOSE in arrears for the second volume of this magazine will please take notice that if they would have the work at a dollar, they must pay before we send out the next number, which will be in three weeks from the time of issuing this one. We shall continue to publish a number every third week, until we come up so as to get out the work regularly the beginning of every month. If our subscribers will pay up for the current volume immediately, it will be a saving to themselves and a help to us, in these "hard times." Indeed we expect payment in advance; and the sum is so small, and the work so cheap, that every subscriber may just as well pay at one time as another.

We would be glad this year to devote our time and energies to make the *Gem* every way worthy of general support; and this we shall be able to do provided our subscribers *do their part*, and do it *at the proper time*. We have to pay cash for everything used in our line, and if those who receive our publication withhold the pay, as five hundred are doing for last year, we must abandon the enterprise. But we look for a *tangible* support this year, which will be infinitely

better than all the professions of friendship and promises of support never redeemed; and we expect our friends, and those friendly to a sound and useful periodical literature in our land, to come up at once, and assist us in giving this monthly that place which it is designed to occupy among the various publications of our country.

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#### POSTAGE ON THIS WORK.

**T**HE postage on the *Gem* this year is but one penny per number; consequently the postage can be no objection to the work being taken. We would advise our subscribers to enquire for the *Gem* and take it from the post office as soon as possible after it arrives. Post Masters dislike to have numbers accumulate on their hands, and besides, some of them send off to the dead letter office all papers and magazines not taken out, about the fifteenth of every month.

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#### OUR ENGRAVING.

**T**HE embellishment we furnish this month, is a north view of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum. It presents the building as viewed from Queen street and is a good representation.—These engravings are executed upon stone, at the establishment of Messrs. Scobie and Balfour of this city, and they serve to illustrate that improvement which is taking place in Canadian art.

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Nothing is more precious than time, and those who misspend it are the greatest of all prodigals.